



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,802	06/27/2003	Chiang Yeh	134108	6521
35114 7590 05/28/2008 ALCATEL LUCENT (FKA ALCATEL INTERNETWORKING, INC.) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS 3400 W. PLANO PARKWAY, MS LEGL2 PLANO, TX 75075			EXAMINER FRITZ, BRADFORD F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2141	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/28/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,802

Applicant(s)

YEH ET AL.

Examiner

BRADFORD F. FRITZ

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-21 and 23-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-21, and 23-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 6/27/03 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 2/14/08, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-11, 13-21, and 23-76 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Summers (6,876,734) in view of Roseman (6,608,636) further in view of Christofferson et al. (7,006,616).

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(i) because the words on the drawings do not appear in a horizontal, left-to-right fashion when the page is either upright or turned so that the top becomes the right side. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11, 13-21, and 23-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Summers (6,876,734) in view of Roseman (6,608,636) further in view of Christofferson et al. (7,006,616), hereinafter referred to as Christofferson.

4. Regarding claim 1, Summers disclosed configuring a member using one or more commands to result in displaying a member icon on a computer screen (column 13, lines 8-30 and Fig. 8); and storing the configuration for the member into a file (column 13, lines 8-30 and Fig. 8); assigning the member as a member administrator using one or more commands (column 5, lines 33-55 and column 9, lines 20-40); and allowing the member administrator to implement a plurality of first set functions (column 5, lines 33-55 and column 9, lines 20-40),

However, Summer does not explicitly teach wherein said first set functions include at least one of a function for implementing Whisper functionality, a function for implementing Create Table functionality, and a function for implementing Create Avatar functionality. Roseman teaches wherein said first set functions include at least one of a function for implementing Whisper functionality (column 9, lines 15-25), a function for

implementing Create Table functionality (column 7, lines 30-40), and a function for implementing Create Avatar functionality (column 7, lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the added functionalities as taught by Roseman in the system of Summer because both Summer and Roseman are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to allow multiple persons, at different locations, to hold a conference, by providing many of the conveniences which the participants would have if present together in the same room (column 1, lines 18-24).

However, Summer and Roseman do not explicitly teach wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference. Christofferson teaches wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively

bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the features as taught by Christofferson in the systems of Summer and Roseman because all are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to bridge an audio conference with a separate visual chat room conference (column 16, lines 33-65)

5. Regarding claim 2, Summers disclosed wherein the step of configuring comprises inputting definition and identification information (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

6. Regarding claim 3, Summers disclosed wherein the step of storing comprises storing the member configuration in a database (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

7. Regarding claim 4, Summers disclosed assigning the member as a member administrator using one or more commands (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5); creating a conference room by the member administrator using one or more commands (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5); connecting to a server by the member administrator to allow other members to join the conference room using one or more commands (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); and selecting certain of the other members by the member administrator to be conference participants in the conference room with the member administrator by using one or more commands (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5); and commencing communication in the conference room by the member administrator so that the selected certain other members and member

administrator are conference participants using one or more commands (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5).

8. Regarding claims 5 and 30, Summers disclosed wherein the commands are graphical user interface (GUI) commands (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5).

9. Regarding claims 6, 7, 8, and 9 Summers disclosed wherein the step of creating includes the member administrator selecting a first set secondary function (Room Commence) (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5), which is among other first set secondary functions (Room Adjourn, Room Transcribe) (column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

10. Regarding claims 10, 15, 31, 36, and 74 Summers disclosed wherein the step of connecting allows the member administrator to use a first set dialing function and first set tertiary functions (Phone, Location, IP Address) to access first set tertiary function first elements public branch exchange (PBX) or voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1, column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

11. Regarding claims 11 and 32, Summers disclosed wherein the step of commencing communication consists of the member administrator selecting a first set secondary function (Room Commence) to allow communication between the selected certain other members and member administrator in the conference room (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5).

12. Regarding claims 13 and 34, Summers disclosed wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Mute) to mute the member

administrator (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), whereas the selected certain other members as conference participants will not be able to hear the member administrator but the member administrator will be able to hear the selected certain other members as conference participants (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

13. Regarding claims 14 and 35, Summers disclosed wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Whisper) to whisper to a particular selected certain other member (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), whereas the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member will be able to communicate with each other without other non-particular selected certain other members as conference participants hearing them (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

14. Regarding claims 16 and 37, Summers disclosed wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Create Table) in order to create a table and select itself and a particular selected certain other member as conference participant to invite the particular selected certain other member as conference participant to a table session discussion (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1).

15. Regarding claims 17 and 38, Summers disclosed wherein the particular selected certain other member may accept, deny, or block the invitation from the member administrator to a table session discussion (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

16. Regarding claims 18 and 39, Summers disclosed wherein when the particular selected certain other member accepts the table invitation (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), the administrator and the particular selected certain other member may communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other non-particular selected certain other member as conference participant in the conference can hear the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member and the particular selected certain other member and member administrator cannot hear the conference (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

17. Regarding claims 19 and 40, Summers disclosed wherein when the particular selected certain other member accepts the table invitation (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member can communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other non-particular selected certain other member as conference participant in the conference can hear the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member but the particular selected certain other member and member administrator can hear and communicate with the conference (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

18. Regarding claim 20, Summers disclosed wherein when the particular selected certain other member denies when invited to the table session, the member administrator is notified of such denial and the particular selected certain other member is not entered in the table session discussion (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

19. Regarding claim 21, Summers disclosed wherein when the particular selected certain other member blocks the table invitation (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), the member administrator is notified of such block and is blocked, until unblocked by the particular selected certain other member, from sending table invites to the particular selected certain other member and the particular selected certain other member is not entered in the table session discussion (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

20. Regarding claims 23, 27, 44, and 48, Summers disclosed wherein the bridge function consists of a one way bridge, a two way bridge and an amway bridge (column 5, lines 9-32 and Figs. 1-3).

21. Regarding claims 24-26 and 45-47, Summers disclosed wherein the one way bridge allows the member administrator and selected certain other members as conference participants in the avatar conference to hear the selected certain other members as conference participants of the conference (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

22. Regarding claim 29, Summers disclosed connecting to a server by the member to join a conference room using one or more commands (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); waiting for a member administrator to select the member and commence communication in the conference room so that the selected member is a conference participant by using one or more commands (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); and engaging in conversation in the conference room which is comprised of the selected member and member administrator as conference

participants using one or more commands (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

23. Regarding claim 33, Summers disclosed wherein the member administrator has a plurality of first set functions (Admin, Mute, Whisper, Dial, Create Table, Create Avatar, Quit) available (column 9, lines 20-40 and Fig. 5, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

24. Regarding claim 41, Summers disclosed wherein when the another selected member or member administrator denies when invited to the table session (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1), the selected member is notified of such denial and the another selected member or member administrator is not entered in the table session discussion (column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8).

25. Regarding claim 42, Summers disclosed wherein when the another selected member or member administrator blocks when invited to the table session, the selected member is notified of such block and is blocked (column 8, lines 1-10, column 13, lines 35-50, and Fig. 8), until unblocked by the another selected member or member administrator, from sending table invites to the another selected member or member administrator and the another selected member or member administrator is not entered in the table session discussion (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1).

26. Regarding claim 43, Summers disclosed wherein the member administrator may select one of the first functions (Create Avatar) to create an avatar conference where an incarnation of the member administrator will reside as the administrator in the avatar conference (column 13, lines 8-30 and Fig. 8), with all the capabilities the member

administrator has in the conference, with the addition of a bridge function which may bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

27. Regarding claims 50, Summers disclosed a client network (Fig. 1 and column 9, lines 4-19); and a service provider network (Fig. 1 and column 9, lines 4-19), wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information and a function request (column 9, lines 4-19), further characterized in that the service provider network operates on the connection information and function request to perform a specific operation (column 7, lines 5-24).

However, Summers does not explicitly teach wherein the specific operation includes allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed. Roseman teaches wherein the specific operation includes allowing Whisper functionality (column 9, lines 15-25), Create Table functionality (column 7, lines 30-40), and Create Avatar functionality to be performed (column 7, lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the added functionalities as taught by Roseman in the system of Summer because both Summer and Roseman are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to allow multiple persons, at different locations, to hold a conference, by providing many of the conveniences which the participants would have if present together in the same room (column 1, lines 18-24).

However, Summer and Roseman do not explicitly teach wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being

conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference. Christofferson teaches wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the features as taught by Christofferson in the systems of Summer and Roseman because all are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to bridge an audio conference with a separate visual chat room conference (column 16, lines 33-65)

28. Regarding claims 51 and 57, Summers disclosed wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted between the client network and the service provider network over a wide area network (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).

29. Regarding claims 52, 58, and 68, Summers disclosed wherein the wide area network is a public internet (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).
30. Regarding claim 53, Summers disclosed wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over a computer telephone integration (CTI) link and public branch exchange (PBX) (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).
31. Regarding claims 54 and 61, Summers disclosed wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the client provider network on a serial link (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).
32. Regarding claim 55 and 62, Summers disclosed wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).
33. Regarding claims 56, Summers disclosed a client network (Fig. 1 and column 9, lines 4-19); and a service provider network (Fig. 1 and column 9, lines 4-19), wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information and a function request (column 9, lines 4-19), further characterized in that the service provider network operates on the connection information and function request to perform a specific operation (column 7, lines 5-24).

However, Summers does not explicitly teach wherein the specific operation includes allowing a Table conference session, and Avatar session to be implemented. Roseman teaches wherein the specific operation includes allowing a Table conference session (column 7, lines 30-40), and Avatar session to be implemented (column 7, lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to include the added functionalities as taught by Roseman in the system of Summer because both Summer and Roseman are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to allow multiple persons, at different locations, to hold a conference, by providing many of the conveniences which the participants would have if present together in the same room (column 1, lines 18-24).

However, Summer and Roseman do not explicitly teach wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference. Christofferson teaches wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the features as taught by Christofferson in the systems of

Summer and Roseman because all are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to bridge an audio conference with a separate visual chat room conference (column 16, lines 33-65)

34. Regarding claims 59 and 75, Summers disclosed wherein the connection information is transmitted over a network layer and central server (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).

35. Regarding claim 60, Summers disclosed wherein the function request is transmitted over a computer telephone integration (CTI) link and voice internet protocol (VoIP) Gateway (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).

36. Regarding claim 63, Summers disclosed a controller for generating connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); an interface for receiving and operating on the connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); an application programming interface (API) for controlling hardware; and a computer telephony integration (CTI) unit for hosting software that communicates with the hardware (column 5, lines 8-30); and a service provider network comprising: a conference server for receiving and executing the connection information and function request for allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed; and a wide area network coupling the client network to the service provider network for allowing communication between the client network and the service provider network (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).

However Summers does not explicitly teach a conference server for receiving and executing the connection information and function request for allowing Whisper functionality (column 9, lines 15-25), Create Table functionality (column 7, lines 30-40), and Create Avatar functionality to be performed (column 7, lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the added functionalities as taught by Roseman in the system of Summer because both Summer and Roseman are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to allow multiple persons, at different locations, to hold a conference, by providing many of the conveniences which the participants would have if present together in the same room (column 1, lines 18-24).

However, Summer and Roseman do not explicitly teach wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference. Christofferson teaches wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides

as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the features as taught by Christofferson in the systems of Summer and Roseman because all are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to bridge an audio conference with a separate visual chat room conference (column 16, lines 33-65)

37. Regarding claims 64-66, Summers disclosed a client network comprising: a controller for generating connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); an interface for receiving and operating on the connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); an application programming interface (API) for controlling hardware; and a computer telephony integration (CTI) unit for hosting software that communicates with the hardware; and a service provider network comprising: a conference server for receiving and executing the connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); and a wide area network coupling the client network to the service provider network for allowing communication between the client network and the service provider network (column 5, lines 9-32 and Fig. 1).

38. Regarding claim 67, Summers disclosed wherein the conference

39. Regarding claim 69, Summers disclosed a protocol converter coupled to the call management unit for converting between a first transmission format and a second transmission format (column 1, lines 53-60).

40. Regarding claims 70 and 76, Summers disclosed a public branch exchange and voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway coupled to the client network and service provider network for transmitting signals between the client network and service provider network (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1).

41. Regarding claim 71, Summers disclosed generating at the client network connection information and a function request to control a conference (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); transmitting to the service provider network the connection information and function request (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); authorizing at the service provider network the client network connection information (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); signaling the authorization information back to the client network (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7); and allowing at least one of a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be created via the client network in response to successfully authorizing the client network connection information (column 7, lines 5-24, column 11, lines 37-65 and Fig. 7).

However, Summers does not explicitly teach allowing at least one of a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be created via the client network. Roseman teaches allowing at least one of a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be created via the client network (column 7, lines 30-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the added functionalities as taught by Roseman in the system of Summer because both Summer and Roseman are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to allow multiple persons, at different locations, to hold a conference, by providing many of the conveniences which the participants would have if present together in the same room (column 1, lines 18-24).

However, Summer and Roseman do not explicitly teach wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference. Christofferson teaches wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), wherein participants of the Avatar conference are a subset of participants in the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22), and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference (column 16, lines 33-65 and column 13, lines 9-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to include the features as taught by Christofferson in the systems of Summer and Roseman because all are from the same field of endeavor of conferencing and in order to bridge an audio conference with a separate visual chat room conference (column 16, lines 33-65)

42. Regarding claim 72, Summers disclosed barring the function request at the service provider network (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1).

43. Regarding claim 73, Summers disclosed implementing the function request at the service provider network (column 5, lines 9-32, column 6, lines 13-30 and Fig. 1).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRADFORD F. FRITZ whose telephone number is (571)272-3860. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2142

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. F. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 2141

/Andrew Caldwell/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2142